thinking in terms of giving priority in sanctioning these gas-based projects? That is one and the order is about Ramagundam and Kothagudem. These are, in fact, Super Thermal Power Stations. If they are going to be expanded, is it also going to be on the basis of Super Thermal Power Station, so that the adjoining areas also get the benefits of the Super Thermal Power Stations?

श्री कल्याण सिंह कालवी : जहां तक गैस पर आधारित पावर स्टेशन स्थापित करने का सवाल है, साउदर्न रीजन के लिए एक गैस ग्रिड योजना विचाराधीन है और उसके लिए स्टेडी ग्रुप कायम किया जा चुका है और उसको टास्क फोर्स दिया जा चुका है । इस पर चर्चा हो रही है । उसकी महीने के अन्दर बैठक भी हुई है।

श्री एस० बी० चव्हाण : चर्चा किस बात के लिए हो रही है ?

श्री कल्याण सिंह कालवी : गैस बेस्ड ग्रिड बनाने की जो बात है उसके ऊपर विचार हो रहा है । सदर्न रीजन के लिये एक गैस ग्रिड बनाकर और सदर्न रीजन में जितने भी गैस आधारित पावर जनरेटिंग प्रोजक्ट आ रहे हैं, उन सारों को गैस देने के बारे में विचार किया जा रहा है ।

श्री पी० शिव शंकर : यह स्टडी ग्रुप 1984 में बना था ।

श्री कल्याण सिंह कालवी : यह सितंबर 1989 में... (**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: You should not have allowed this question.

श्री सभापति : आप लोग आपस में तय कर लें पहले से ।

श्री अरविन्द गणेश कुलकर्णी : सवालों का जवाब ठीक नहीं आ रहा है ।

श्री सभापति : कह तो दिया कि स्टडी ग्रुप बैठा है ।... (**व्यवधान**)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Following Mr. Chavan's question in view of the fact that a large quantity of gas is being flared in different parts of the country which is also causing social tensions, may I know from the honourable Minister whether the Government is prepared to place before the House a detailed note about the gases that are being flared and the perspective plan of the Government as to how the Government proposes to utilise this gas?

श्री कल्याण सिंह कालवी : महोदय, यह सवाल पेट्रोलियम मिनिस्ट्री से संबंधित है ।

*106. [*The questioner (Shri Talari Manohar) was absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 41 infra]

*107. [*The questioner (Shri S. Manohar) was absent. For* answer vide *col.* 41-42 infra]

Steps to meet the shortage of petrol and diesel

*108. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating increase in the prices of petrol and diesel to overcome their shortage; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to increase their domestic production?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement is aid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(b) The installed capacity of Indian Refineries has been increased by 6.3 million tonnes per annum during the 7th Plan raising the total refining

capacity from 45.55 million tonnes at the beginning of the 7th Plan to 51.85 million tonnes at the beginning million tonnes by the end of the 7th Plan. The following proposals are under implementation/consideration for the 8th Five Year Plan.

(i) Expansion of Madras, Digboi and Guwahati Refineries (under implementation).

(ii) Setting up of 0.5 million tonnes refinery at Narimanam (recently (approved).

(iii) Expansion of Koyali, Cochin and Bongaigaon Refineries (under consideration).

(iv) Setting up of three new refineries in Assam, Karnal and Mangalore (under consideration).

A number of projects relating to all exploration and production were taken up during the VIIth Five Year Plan, resulting in increase of crude oil production in the country from 28.99 million tonnes in 1984-85 to 34.09 million tonnes in 1989-90.

It is expected that indigenous production of crude oil will increase to about 50 million tonnes per annum by the terminal year of the VIIITH Plan.

A number of discovered oil fields are slated for deveopment during the VIIIth Five Year Plan period.

SHRI J. P. JAVALI: The world has witnessed three oil shocks, including the recent one. In view of this situation I want to know whether the Government has become wiser now. It is known that the country had to undergo great hardships; there used to be long queues before petrol bunks. Last month or so, the Deputy Prime Minister of the country, when he was going to attend some function, saw the long queues and he went inside the petrol bunk, and instead of trying to help the people, he branded the petrol bunk owners as blackmarketeers. He did this not only at one bunk but at two or three bunks, and asked the police to haul them. This was no fault of theirs. When oil management is not done properly and oil products are not supplied on time and in required quantities, long queues will naturally be there. Another thing is the shortages were felt because of the oil refineries not functioning properly. I would like to know the condition of three oil refineries, to what capacity they have been functioning: Assam, Karnal and Haldia. It is also stated in the report in regard to the setting up of three new refineries in Assam, Karnal and Mangalore that it is 'under consideration'. I am very particular about Mangalore. For the last two or three years I have been asking questions and I have been getting the same answer that it is 'under consideration'. I would like the honourable Minister to tell us what the present position of Mangalore refinery is, and also about the present working, the capacity utilisation, of these three refineries--Assam, Karnal and Mangalore...

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: There are so many questions. How can I reply?

SHRI J. P. JAVALI: I have asked only two. In fact, it is only one question. These shortages are felt because of the refineries not being maintained properly. I want to know whether the Government has become wiser in view of this situation. I want to know particularly about Mangalore refinery.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: The refinery at Mangalore is under active consideration of the Government of India and we will take it up soon.

SHRI J. P. JAVALI: You have been saying that for the last three years.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: We will take immediate steps for this. With regard to his other supplementary relating to shortages, I would like to tell him that

while the Deputy Prime Minister was going to Haryana he noticed a very big queue of trucks for diesel oil and he brought it to our notice and we took adequate steps to improve the situation.

SHRI J. P. JAVALI: What is the capacity utilisation of Assam, Karnal and Mangalore refineries?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: That figure is not available.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : सभापति महोदय, मुझे स्मरण है, जब मंत्री जी ताजा ताजा मंत्री बने थे तो इन्होंने घोषणा की थी कि पेट्रोल की कीमतें जो बढ़ाई गई है वह घटा दी जाएंगी लेकिन प्रधानमंत्री ने इनकी बात को रद करके कहा कि कीमतें नहीं घटाई जाएंगी। अब युद्ध समाप्त हो गया है और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में तेल की कीमतें घट रही है। मैं यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि क्या उनके पहले कथन के अनुसार कि तेल की कीमतें घटाई जाएंगी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में कीमतें घटने के बाद और ऐसा लगता है कि कीमतें युद्ध के बाद और घटेंगी, क्या कीमतों को घटाने के बारे में आपको कोई योजना है या आपका विचार है ? दूसरा इसी के साथ मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि कीमतों के घटने के बाद तेल के भंडारण के लिए अंडर ग्राउंड भंडारण या जिस प्रकार से अमरीका ने किया है वैसा करने का आपने कोई विचार किया है या नहीं किया है ?

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : माननीय सभापति जी, मैंने यह कहा था कि जहां तक कीमतों का प्रश्न है इस पर सरकार पुनरीक्षण कर रही है कि कीमतें बढ़ाई जाएं या घटाई जाएं या वही रखी जाएं।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : श्रीमन्, आप जब मंत्री बने तो उसके बाद आपने कहा कि तेल की कीमतें घटाई जाएंगी लेकिन प्रधानमंत्री ने रद्द कर दिया था। (**व्यवधान**)।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : मैंने यह कहा था कि कीमतों के संबंध में सरकार सारी स्थिति पर पुनर्विचार कर रही है जिसका मतलब यह है कि कीमतें वही रहें या कीमतें घटाई जाएं। तो रिव्यू करने के बाद हम इस फैसले पर पहुंचे कि जो कीमतें हैं वह यथास्थिति बनी रहेंगी।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : क्या अब कुछ घटाने का आपका विचार है ? अब तो युद्ध समाप्त हो गया है (**व्यवधान**)

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : फिलहाल कीमतों को घटाने का कोई विचार नहीं है और न बढ़ाने का विचार है।

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Is it a fact that at a number of places the drilling which was going on has been stopped and what are the reasons for stopping the drilling at a number of places in the country.

ओ० एन० जी० सी० ने बन्द किया है।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : ड्रिलिंग उन्होंने बन्द किया है अनेक स्थानों के संबंध में रिपोर्ट की है कि जो वेल्स है वह सिक हो गये हैं। इसलिए उन सारे मामलों का पुनर्रीक्षण किया जा रहा है। जांच कमेटी की रिपोर्ट के द्वारा इस संबंध में सरकार को जानकारी दी गई है और उसके बाद हमारे मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों की समिति उस पर विचार कर रही है। इस महीने के अंत तक इस मामले में अंतिम रूप से निर्णय ले लिया जाएगा।

श्री विटठलभाई मोतीराम पटेल : ड्रिलिंग बन्द करने की वजह क्या थी?

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : इस सिलसिले में कमेटी की रिपोर्ट थी। सारे मामलों का पुनरीक्षण किया जा रहा है और इस महीने के अंत तक अधिकारियों की समिति इस पर अपना निर्णय ले लेगी।

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Sir, the Minister has replied in part 'b' that the expansion of Koyali, Cochin and Bongaigaon refineries is under consideration. Will the Minister tell us

how long this will remain under consideration? The question of oil refineries expansion is pending with the Government for a very long period. Will the Minister give us an assurance as to when it will be cleared and taken up?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: I cannot give an assurance about the particular time. But, we will take a decision soon.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, I am happy that the cut which was there for diesel has been removed. Now, as far as the State Transport buses and the buses run by the Municipal Corporation are concerned, there is a growth in the number of buses every year. But you are not giving any additional diesel for that purpose. And as such many of the buses are not on the roads. In Bombay, 1000 buses of BEST are not on the roads. Similarly, many of the State Transport buses in Manarashtra are not on the roads. Sir, the STA is going in losses because they have got a fleet but they are not able to run it. And as such, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they will give any additional diesel at least for the buses run by the State Transport Authority or the Municipal Corporation which number has increased as compared to last year. You are only giving this year what was given last year in the same month. I want to know whether you will increase the supply of diesel so that people will not face any difficulty and the State Transport which are running in a huge loss will be able to reduce the losses to some extent. I want to know whether the Government will take action now as the situation has eased now.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Sir, the 10 per cent cut on the consumption of diesel which was imposed by the earlier Government was withdrawn in November last. Secondly, as far as diesel was concerned, we gave top priority to the agriculture sector. But, now, since the situation has somewhat eased, we will definitely think and take decision about providing diesel to the transport sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is talking about State transport.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I only want for public transport.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Yes, Sir, for public transport.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 109.

*109. [*The questioner (Shri Shamim Hashmi) was absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 42 infra]

Maintenance of Engineering complex at Bombay Airport

*110. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:†

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DGCA has passed strictures against Indian Airlines management for its failure to maintain properly its Engineering Complex at Bombay airport, particularly in key areas like engine maintenance, stores, etc; and

(b) if so, what corrective action has been taken in this regard and whether responsibility has been fixed for these lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) The inspection of the engineering complex at Bombay airport conducted by the DGCA has revealed certain deficiencies.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kapil Verma.